

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed October 18, 2007. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims and respectfully provide the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claim 71. Applicants do not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations, or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner.

Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-11, 14-18, 22-23, 25-34, 37-41, 45-46, 48-57, 60-64, and 68-69 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See Final Office Action at 4) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104, Applicants respectfully issue a statement commenting on the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations. Furthermore, Applicants do not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations.

Applicants believe all claims are allowable without amendment. For example, Applicants maintain that each of Applicants' independent claims, and therefore their dependent claims, are allowable for at least those reasons discussed in the previous Response and reserve the right to pursue claims of the same or similar scope in a continuation application. However, to expedite issuance of a patent from this Application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 24, 47, and 70 to include limitations similar to those from dependent Claims 2, 25, 48, and 2, respectively, which the Examiner identified as allowable. Applicants have also canceled Claims 2, 25, and 48 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have amended dependent Claims 3-10, 26-33, and 49-56 to adjust their dependencies in light of the amendments to the independent claims and the cancellation of

Claims 2, 25, and 48. Given the Examiner's indications of allowable subject matter in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments should be entered because they place the Application in better form for allowance. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b); M.P.E.P. § 714.12.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 24, 47, and 70 and their dependent claims (as well as Claim 71, already identified as allowable).

II. No Waiver

All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements.

Conclusion

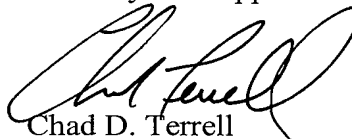
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Chad D. Terrell, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6813.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Chad D. Terrell
Reg. No. 52,279

Date: December 18, 2007

Customer No. **45507**